



### **Samuel Nathan Wolfsdorf (1930 – 1951)**

Sam Wolfsdorf was born in Juarez, Mexico on October 22, 1930, and shortly afterwards moves to Brooklyn, NY. They lived in Brooklyn during the Depression and World War II. Sam attended PS 145 Elementary School & Boys High School in Brooklyn. Sam was a member of Brooklyn's sensational 79<sup>th</sup> Precinct's **PAL** Track Team that won the New York City Championship in February, 1947. In 1947, the family moved to San Ysidro, and he graduated from Chula Vista High School in 1950, (the first class to graduate from the new High School at 4<sup>th</sup> and K). He was a standout halfback football player and a sprinter on the High school track team, and was featured in a couple articles in the San Diego Tribune-Sun newspaper in 1948 and 1949. It was noted that Sam Wolfsdorf transferred from Brooklyn, New York in his sophomore year (1947). During his Senior Year, he was Co-Captain of the CVHS Varsity Football Team where he also earned the Most Valuable Player Trophy and was named to the All-Metro Squad. The first home football game ever played at the "4th & K" campus was a real classic. Sam "The San Ysidro Kid" (as he was referred to in many local newspaper articles) inaugurated the new home football field by scoring (3) touchdowns to lead the Spartans to a victory over Oceanside. The football used that historic day was signed by the varsity squad and is presently on display @ CVHS. He was also the Captain in the High School ROTC program.

He was the only son of Mrs. Sally Gechter and they lived at 142-2 San Ysidro Blvd in San Ysidro. After graduating from Chula Vista High School, Sam attended San Bernardino Junior College where he was also a standout halfback football player. Sam enlisted in the U.S. Army on Feb 15, 1951. He received training at Camp Roberts and was then sent to Korea, where he served as a Private in the Korean War. He died on August 31, 1951 only five days after arriving in Korea. He was assigned to 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. Sam is buried next to his mother at the Home of Peace Cemetery in San Diego.

A brief synopsis of the last days of August, 1951 on "Bloody Ridge" for the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment follows:

*The 9th Infantry renewed its efforts to retake the 940-983 hill mass in the early morning hours of 30 August. And as the First and Second Battalions moved out on the attack, the Third Battalion went forward to relieve ROK Army elements supposedly holding Hill 773. However, as the Third Battalion moved up the slopes of 773 it became engaged with a large enemy force and in the ensuing fire-fight was forced back down the hill. It to its base in Worun-ni, reorganized and stepped off again to try and reach the crest of 773 which had been given-up by the ROK's. And again their efforts failed and nightfall found the entire 'Bloody Ridge' still in enemy hands. The First and Second Battalions had tried to take the western portion of the ridge but fire from 1,000 enemy reinforcements had repulsed their attack. It had been a day of bitter battle with heavy casualties on both*

*sides. Night brought little relief for both sides knew the assaults would be renewed at daybreak.*

*The 9th Infantry had an advance taste of success as August faded into its final days. The First Battalion launched a new assault on Hill 773 in the early hours of 31 August. With "B" and "C" Companies hurling themselves upward against the fire of the entrenched North Korean troops on Hill 773, the crest was over-run at 2130 hours. All available troops in the battalion moved upward and in a matter of minutes the position was organized, a perimeter thrown up and the first of three peaks in "Bloody Ridge" was again ours. It never fell to the enemy again.*

Shortly after Sam's death, his alumni and fellow classmates got together with the Chula Vista High School Administration and started the "Sam Wolfsdorf Memorial Citizenship Trophy", which is awarded each year to the Chula Vista High School Student that was voted the best citizen of the year since 1952.. It has been displayed @ CVHS with other memorabilia donated by Sam's family. The memorabilia display includes Sam's CVHS Letterman's Sweater, Sam's Purple Heart, and a picture colleague. In 2006, the City of Chula Vista honored Sam by having a street named in his honor.



